

The handsome, black-haired Missourian said the Minutemen were more interested in quality of membership than quantity "because we are training future military leaders."

Mr. de Pugh said only 10 per cent of the population would qualify as sufficiently conservative, patriotic, dedicated and self-sacrificing for Minutemen membership.

Seven thousand members have been "weeded out" in the last year, he said, for failing to measure up. Some were spies, he said. They were not dropped, simply "isolated."

"When they found they were not being included in anything of importance," he said, "they decided it would be easier to quit and infiltrate the John Birch Society."

Mr. de Pugh recently dropped out of the Birch Society. He said it "wasted too much time" on impractical efforts like its movement to impeach Chief Justice Earl Warren.

Movement in Colleges

Mr. de Pugh is taking the Minutemen's youth movement, which he considers vital for maintaining anti-Communist vigilance, into the nation's colleges.

Last summer 15 college-student sons and daughters of Minutemen were trained in counterpropaganda techniques to combat "left wing influences" on their campuses.

This summer, the national coordinator said, 100 students from major colleges and universities are taking a six-weeks course. The classes are conducted at three unspecified places, one in the East, one in the West and one near St. Louis.

The first two weeks are devoted to a study of "the American heritage," the second two to Communist propaganda techniques and the last two to counterpropaganda.

"We want the students to be able to recognize Communist agitation for what it is," Mr. de Pugh said, "and use whatever forums are available at their colleges to counteract it."

Mr. de Pugh, soft-spoken and articulate, said he planned to embark on a round of speeches himself this fall.

The oldest of his six children will enroll as a freshman in September at the Kansas City Art Institute.

The de Pugh teen-agers already are well trained in weaponry. Even his 12 year-old daughter, the chief Minuteman said, is "a pretty good shot" after two years of rifle practice.

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